(c) and (d) India's exports to and imports from USA, European Community (EC) and developing countries and their respective shares in 'otal exports and imports during April—January, 1993-94 the latest period for which such data are available, are given below :—

	India's Exports		India's Imports	
	US $ Million	Percentage share in total exports	US $ Million	Percentage share in total imports
USA	3223	18.1	1846	10.0
EC Countries . . .	4614	25.9	5772	31.4
Developing Countries . .	6898	38.8	7742	42.1

(e) The share of Indian goods in the overall imports of the USA, EC and developing countries during 1992 are about 0.6%, 0.4% and 0.6% respectively.

(f) Tariffs in developed countries are very low. The trade weighted average tariff on industrial products in developed countries was about 6.4% before the Uruguay Round. After implementation of the Uruguay Round results this will come down to about 4%. Tariffs in developing countries very from country to country. Generally speaking tariffs in developing countries are relatively high as compared to that in the developed countries . However as a result of autonomous liberalisation measures undertaken by some of the developing countries, tariffs have been reduced significantly in recent years.

Reconstitution of Tobacco Board

5321. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) when will the Tobacco Board be reconstituted ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same interests and same people have been nominated since its formation ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to widen the base of the Tobacco Board ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Re-constitution of the Tobacco Board will become due on 4-9-94.

(b) and (c) The Tobacco board comprises of Central Government nominees, representatives of State Governments, Members of Parliament tobacco growers, tobacco traders and experts in tobacco. At present there is no proposal to expand the membership of the Board.

Two non-official members representing the Tobacco trade in the present Board were also members in the earlier Boards.

Indo-Israel Joint Business Conference

5322. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a High Powered Indian business delegation visited Israel during October-November, 1993 to take part in the first Indo-Israel Joint Business Conference :

(b) if so, what are the main topics that were discused in the Conference;

(c) what are the final agreements arrived at ;

(d) whether India and Israel have further improved trade relations between the two countries ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) An Indian business delegation led by Shri Sanjay Dalmia visited Israel from 30th Oct. to 2nd Nov., 1993 to take part in the first meeting of Indo-Israel Joint Business Council held in Tel Aviv on 2nd November, 1993.

(b) The issues discussed at the meeting mainly included the following :

(i) Israel's economy in the light of political developments in the region.

(ii) Indian economy in the light of economic reforms.

(iii) Joint ventures between Israel and India especially in hightech industries and/or agriculture.

(c) No specific agreements were finalised at the meeting.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The two sides have recently finalised a bilateral Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation. Trade between India and Israel increased from Rs. 317.86 crores during 1991-92 to Rs. 660.24 crores during 1992-93, and further to Rs. 1051.73 crores during the first 10 months of 1993-94.

Report published by GATT

5323. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that GATT has published the report wherein its claimed that international trade would go up by 735 billion dollars and additional investment of 235 billion dollars would take place by the year 2005 ;

(b) if so, what is the basis of such computation and what is going to be the additional share of India in the world trade and in investment ;

(c) what is the quantum of world trade at present including industrial goods and agricultural commodities trade and share of India on these counts in the world trade;

(d) whether it is a fact that tariff rates on industrial and agricultural commodities are bound by imposing ceiling ; and

(e) if so, what are these ceilings for various major export products, which concern Indian exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) The GATT Secretariat study estimates an increase of roughly 745 billion dollars in the level of world merchandise trade and an income effect of 230 billion dollars by 2005 as a result of the Uruguay Round. No country-wise estimates have been made. World merchandise exports in 1993 were computed at 3687 billion dollars. India's share of global exports is about 0.6 per cent. About 88 per cent of India's exports are in the industrial sector and 12 per cent are from the agricultural sector. The trade-weighted average tariffs of developed countries on industrial products will be reduced to 4 per cent when the Uruguay Round results have been implemented, though there may be peaks in some products. In the agricultural sector there will be a reduction by 36 per cent in tariffs by all countries to whom the relevant provision is applicable.